

PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT WÜRZBURG)

Bewerbungsfrist: 25.01.2021

PhD position (m/f/d): Biodiversity in deadwood - base for an improvement of sustainable conservation of beech forests in Germany and the Caucasus

Beech forests dominate the temperate zone in Europe and the Caucasus. Germany lies at the heart of the global distribution of the red beech. Post-glacial return migration and history of use determine today's biodiversity. From Bulgaria to Iran, the European beech has been replaced by the Oriental beech. Similar to Germany for the European beech, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan bear a global responsibility for the diversity of the Oriental beech forests. In order to be able to live up to this responsibility, joint research in to the biodiversity in these forests is of great importance. On the one hand, this involves raising awareness of the important role of deadwood in beech forest habitats. On the other hand, both regions can learn from each other: While there is a longer tradition of biodiversity research in beech forests in Europe, the Caucasus has much larger areas of primeval beech forests. The aim of the proposed research project is therefore to initiate a mutual transfer of knowledge about biodiversity in beech forests between Germany and countries in the Caucasus. This is to be achieved primarily through the qualification of a young scientist at best from the Caucasus in Germany, as well as through the qualification of local staff in research institutes and protected area administrations in the Caucasus.

In this framework, the Ecological Fieldstation Fabrikschleichach of the Julius-Maximilians University Würzburg offers a PhD position (m/f/d) for excellent and highly motivated candidates with interests in forest ecology and applied ecological science - subject to the written approval of the third party funder. The project will focus on communities of saproxylic organism, in specific fungi and beetles, in managed and unmanaged forests of both *Fagus* species. The PhD student (m/f/d) has to coordinate the samplings in Germany and the Caucasus region. We will combine classical taxonomic identification with innovative barcoding methods.

Candidates (m/f/d) with the following profile will be given consideration:

- MSc degree in biology, forestry or a related discipline
- background in taxonomy and/or molecular systematics
- excellent verbal and written communication skills in English
- very good organization skills
- interest in field work
- mobility by a driving license class B
- experience in the analysis of molecular and morphological data will be a bonus
- applicants from the countries of origin Armenia and Georgia have a bonus

Salary and benefits are equivalent to a public service position in Bavarian (TV-L, 65 %) for 35 months. The intended starting date is 1st March 2021. Equally qualified handicapped applicants will be given preference. Female scientists are particularly encouraged to apply. The place of employment is Fabrikschleichach, Germany.

Your application should include a cover letter that outlines your motivation and suitability for the position, a detailed CV with list of publications, the names and addresses of two referees, and copies of educational transcripts and should be submitted as a single pdf-file, if possible, per email to hermine.wohlpart@uni-wuerzburg.de, latest **until 25th January 2021**.

Unfortunately, application documents cannot be returned. They will be destroyed as soon as the selection process is completed.